GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1568
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
DE-ADDICTION
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of drug abuse and addiction have increased threefold during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the government propose to hold a national campaign and drive to get rid of this menance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a & b): As there has been no nation wide survey or a national data base with regard to the extent of drug abuse in the country, it is difficult to establish the number of drug abusers/addicts in the country. However, different studies undertaken and information made available from different sources indicate an increasing trend of drug abuse and addiction in the country, though no firm data is available.

Peer group pressures, curiosity, industrialization/ubranisation, break-down of the traditional joint family system and availability of drugs etc. are some of the apparent reasons which have rendered individuals vulnerable to social maladjustments and deviances, such as alcoholism and drug abuse.

(c & d): Recognising drug abuse as psycho-socio-medical problem, which can be best handled in community settings, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has beenimplementing the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance{Drugs] Abuse. Under the Scheme, grant-in-aid is provided to voluntary organizations forimplementing community based programmes on awareness generation, preventive education, counseling and identification, detoxification, rehabilitation and after-care of the addicts. At present the Ministry is providing assistance to 350 voluntary organizations for operating 436 Centres (104 Drug Awareness Counselling and Assistance Centres and 332 Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation Centres) all over thecountry. Besides the Ministry has been utilizing media channels-electronic and print-for disseminating information amongst the masses.